

Transportation Funding Task Force - Public Comment

	Name	Representing	Comment Summary
April 21 - Grand Rapids	Mr. David Worthums	Michigan Municipal League	Good time to look at ending IDG's and replace with service fees. Offered MML's assistance
	Mr. Casey Dutmer	The Rapid & Concerned Citizen	Transportation is a sound economic investment in community. Wants TF to be visionary. Need to dedicate larger share of \$\$ to transit.
	Mr. Andy Guy	Michigan Land Use Institute	To diversify system, need to diversify sources of transportation funding (if all funding comes from autos, all funding goes towards accommodating autos).
	Ms. Rae Bower	Disability Advocates	Consider disabled when making transportation funding decisions.
	Mr. David Bulkowski	Disability Advocates	Local support for public transit.
May 19 - Livonia	Ms. Sandra Carroll	Families Near I-275	Consider road noise.
	Ms. Gretchen Driskell	Mayor of Saline	MI's future transportation needs to include more than highways.
	Mr. Jack Kirksey	Mayor of Livonia	Welcomed the TF2.
	Ms. Megan Owens	Transportation Riders United	Need to embrace alternative modes of travel.
	Mr. Todd Scott	Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance	Consider support for trailways.
June 30 - Lansing	Mr. Frank Lynn	Disability Advocates of Kent Co.	Local support for public transit. Access to all mobility options with choices.
	Ms. Carolyn Grawi	Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living	Support for public transit options - make the system work for everyone.
July 21 - Traverse City	Mr. Frank Lynn	Disability Advocates of Kent Co.	Working with others to provide a statewide vision for transit, believes system should include high speed rail, metro commuter rail, local bus service, intercity service, non-motorized infrastructure, lifeline service, disability access.
	Ms. Donna Nichols	DD Council Transportation Workgroup, Mason County Regional	Requested Dial-a-Ride service be provided in the country as it is in the city.
	Mr. Todd Belanger	Grand Traverse RICC	Public transit - not enough buses; creation of a north/south bike path.
	Ms. Becky Diem	DD Council Transportation Workgroup, Mason County Regional Consumer Committee	Requested Dial-a-Ride service be provided in the country as it is in the city.
	Mr. Lance Malburg	Oceana County Road Commission	Funding is a big issue, rural road funding is being left out. Transportation funding formula change should be fair to everyone.
	Mr. Bob Otwell	TART Trails	Importance of a trail network, expressed willingness to work with officials on their "Grand Vision" project, and believes that we need to focus on how we use our land as it has a big impact on transportation system.
	Ms. Diane Kempen	DD Council Transportation Workgroup	More money for transit, better access for the impaired, and believes current transit funding does not encourage cooperation among agencies.

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August 11 - Frankenmuth	Mr. Jeff Nagel	Midland, Bay City, Saginaw Airport	Critical need for airport funding and importance of moving aviation funding from Capital Outlay budget to MDOT operating budget.
	Ms. Kathy McGeathy	Disability Network	Urged the task force to keep people with disabilities in mind as they make recommendations. Pointed out the work of the Complete Streets Projects.
	Mr. Robert Webster	Disability Network	Consider folks with disabilities and the respective economic impact.
	Mr. Steve Puuri	Washtenaw County Road Commission	Reminded the task force that about 2/3rds of the system is not supported by federal aid and there is insufficient revenue to invest in this part of the transportation system. Opined that the implementation of local revenue options would be a hard sell in Washtenaw County.
	Ms. Brenda Allen	People with Disabilities	Without transportation, veterans who become disabled are unable to access VA hospitals or jobs - without them we would not enjoy the freedom we do.
September 8 - Lansing	Mr. Jim Walker	National Motorists Association	Interest is free mobility for motorists, fuel taxes and quality roads. Not opposed to tax increase provided they are dedicated to roads and not diverted.
	Mr. Glenn Ashley	United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan	Need to stop subsidizing urban sprawl. Not just roads: utilities & all those things that encourage larger, wider roads. Need to invest in the kind of infrastructure that promotes jobs. Intermodal cooperation will promote investment between modes.
	Ms. Dana Debel	Northwest Airlines, Inc.	Impact of rising fuel costs. Employs 8000 in MI; serves 15 airports in MI. Industry as total expected to spend about 20B more in jet fuel this year over last.
September 29 - Marquette	Mr. Bob Struck	Marquette County Board	Welcomed everyone to Marquette.
	Mr. Keith Kaspari	Marquette County Sawyer Airport	Importance of Sawyer International Airport and the need for roads to get to it.
	Mr. Jim Sodergrin	Taxpayer	Suggested that TF2 consider increasing the gas tax 10 cents per gallon vs. increasing property millage.
	Mr. Scott Carlson	Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee	Need to make transit in Escanaba more efficient.
	Ms. Bonnie Champeau	Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee	Needs a stop light on 8th Avenue South in Escanaba.
	Mr. James Iwanicki	Marquette County Road Commission	Drastic steps are necessary for safety reasons due to lack of funds.
	Mr. John Marshall	Lake Superior Community Partnership	Need for enhanced north-south travel so those in the UP could get to Wisconsin.
	Mr. Peter Djupe	IRM County Road Commission	Iron County has a problem with access to Marquette. Existing corridor is crowded - safety issue.
	Mr. Randy Girard	Marquette Charter Township	Townships rely on county as their road agency. Dramatic differences between roads in cities and townships because the county road commission's need more money.
	Mr. Arnold Sirtola	Ewing Township	County road commissions are always playing catch-up.
	Ms. Delynn Klein	Marquette County Transit Authority	Transit is needed to help residents meet their most basic needs. Transit agencies are downsizing service, providing just the basics, due to lack of funds.

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September 29 - Marquette (cont.)	Ms. Rochelle Cotey	Alger County Public Transporting	Her transit agency has always been underfunded. Also need for more commuter carpool lots.
	Mr. Bob Lindbeck	Alger County Road Commission	costs in the face of rising costs for fuel and construction materials.
	Mr. Dave Hall	Marquette County Road Commission	Transportation providers are all in this together, but the public doesn't understand how dire the situation is.
	Mr. Douglas Mills	Baraga County Road Commission	His county is the state's 4th lowest recipient of MTF, and that 75% of the land in the country is not taxable. Structure recommendations to achieve a catch-up phase, an enhancement phase, and a sustainability phase.
	Mr. Jeremy Nelson	General Population	Suggested solutions for consideration including redirecting some portion of the money from moving violations to transportation, raising taxes on alcohol and tobacco, and increasing the state gas tax 5 cents per year for 5 years with a sunset clause implemented at the end of that time.
October 13 - Roscommon	Ms. Lisa Morris	Perficient, Inc. Consulting	Pointed out her experience with public private partnerships out west and offered herself as a resource.
	Mr. Rich Lehman	Edw C. Levy Co.	Discussed how congestion impacts his business and by implementing efficiencies to reducing congestion it benefits everyone, including the environment.
	Mr. Tim O'Rourke	Roscommon County Road Commission	Roscommon County Road Commission is seriously underfunded and costs are sky rocketing. The county is beyond efficiencies and essentially in survival mode.
	Mr. Larry Bushong	Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.	His business this year saw a drastic cut in its work load and a construction season shortened by two months.
October 27 - Lansing	Mr. Lance Malburg	Oceana County Road Commission	Discussed importance of ensuring that the task force recommendations are equitable for all 600 plus agencies that would be impacted.
	Mr. Bob Curtiss	Isabella County Road Commission	Provided a handout to the task force that outlined the commission's current funding allocations and expressed concern that costs are increasing, but revenues are flat.
	Mr. Andy Deloney	Michigan Restaurant Assn.	Stated that the hospitality tourism industry is dependent on the transportation infrastructure, which helps improve business. Expressed opposition to any legislation that would authorize the leasing of rest areas to business as it is unfair competition.
	Mr. Hayes Jones	SMART	Discussed the challenges SMART is facing as a result of the 30% increase in ridership and does not have sufficient bus capacity to serve the new demand. Mr. Jones believes funding for SMART is not equitable and expressed concern that the "opt out" provision has created inefficiencies in the delivery of services.
	Mr. Gordon Mackay	Indian Trails, Inc.	Discussed the services that Indian Trails provides and the importance of looking at mass transit funding in different ways to ensure multi-modal connectivity for the entire state.
	Ms. Dana Debel	Northwest Airlines, Inc.	Expressed concern about any task force recommendations that would increase costs for the airline and stated that airports have other ways (besides taxes) to fund economic activities.

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October 27 - Lansing (cont.)	Ms. Melissa Roy	Detroit Regional Chamber	Stated that transit is the key to economic development. Ms. Roy briefly discussed the importance of dealing with the current shortfall and how to make Michigan a world class transportation system.
	Mr. Jim Koslosky	Michigan Association of Airport Executives	Expressed a dissenting opinion on the proposal to expand the airport parking tax. Believes that the expansion of this tax would negatively impact airports that rely on parking revenue and that airports already have the ability to charge fees for these services.
	Mr. Jim Rice	Bishop Int. Airport	Provided dissenting testimony on the proposal to expand the airport parking tax.
	Mr. Cliff Moshoginis	Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Intl. Airport	Provided dissenting testimony on the proposal to expand the airport parking tax.
	Mr. Robert Selig	Capital Region Airport Authority	Provided dissenting testimony on the proposal to expand the airport parking tax.
	Mr. Keith Kaspari	Marquette County Sawyer Airport	Provided dissenting testimony on the proposal to expand the airport parking tax.
	Mr. Jeff Nagel	Midland, Bay City, Saginaw Airport	Provided dissenting testimony on the proposal to expand the airport parking tax.
	Mr. Stephen Cassens	Cherry Cayhal Airport	Provided dissenting testimony on the proposal to expand the airport parking tax.
	Mr. Steward Sandstrom	Kalamazoo Regional Chamber	Commented that he has received mostly positive affirmations on the revenue enhancement proposals.
	Mr. David Worthums	Michigan Municipal League	Echoed SMART's comments about the importance of a regional transit system and also pointed out that the urban cores could be the economic engine for the economy. Specifically mentioned the importance of local planning and local funding options for transit.
	Mr. Matt Smego	Michigan Farm Bureau	Stated that in order to bring goods to market a sound transportation system is required. Mentioned that one of Farm Bureau's founding principles is to support user-based taxes that are in-line with costs. Farm Bureau does not support revenue proposals based on property taxes or assessments.
Comments Received via E-Mail	Mr. Lance Malburg	Oceana County Road Commission	Well written Highway report, but found an error re: Chocoley Township. Also, Playing field should be leveled so all agencies & organizations have an equal footing. Not only the funding sources & amounts need to be looked into, but the distribution of those funds also.
	Norman Graham	Concerned Citizen	Gas tax would create further hardship, but raising registration tax by \$10 would generate enough funds without hurting MI residents.
	Mr. Joe Kaltz	Kent County Road Commission	Switch the \$0.19 per gallon gas tax to \$0.19 per dollar tax. This would eliminate the stigma of "raising taxes" while generating increased revenue for transportation.
	Mr. Harry Brown		Supports toll roads and note that the pavement we use is out of date.
	Ms. Kelly Blessing	CATA Route #48 Rider	Supports comprehensive transit system, including a commuter rail system.
	Ms. Julie Pollock	Dept. of Human Services	Supports increased dedicated transit funding - she relies heavily on transit to get to work.